

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
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APPROVED BY ARA:SSHELTON
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PM/ISO:JREINERTSON (PHONE)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 286660

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ECON, EFIN, EAID, EFIS, EGEN, MARR, BF

SUBJECT: MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT

REF: NASSAU 1840

1. DEPARTMENT AND DOD WELCOME ADDERLEY'S EXPRESSION OF READINESS TO PROMPTLY BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES AND OPERATING RIGHTS IN THE BAHAMAS. WE AGREE THAT TIME-FRAME SUGGESTED BY ADDERLEY IN REFTEL IS REALISTIC AND ONE MORE SIX-MONTH EXTENSION SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CONCLUDE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AGREEMENT.

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2. FYI: DOLS 500 MILLION FIGURE FOR TEN-YEAR LEASE PERIOD MENTIONED BY ADDERLEY IN REFTEL IS OUT OF THE QUESTION AND OUR PROPOSAL TABLED IN DECEMBER 1975 CONTINUES TO REFLECT OUR BEST OFFER, BUT WE MAY CONSIDER A SMALL INCREASE AS A GESTURE TO REFLECT THE PASSAGE OF TWO YEARS SINCE THE INITIAL OFFER WAS TABLED. QUESTION OF LINKING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ANY FINAL AGREEMENT REMAINS

EXTREMELY UNLIKELY DUE TO CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION AND
WE BELIEVE IT IS BEST TO CONTINUE TO SEPARATE THESE TWO
ISSUES WHEN CONSIDERING FACILITIES AGREEMENT. THERE IS
NO LINK TO BE MADE BETWEEN THE SPANISH AGREEMENT AND THE
BAHAMIAN NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES

IN ROLES AND MISSIONS OF THE INSTALLATIONS IN BOTH
LOCATIONS. U.S. FACILITIES IN THE BAHAMAS ARE SMALL,
TECHNOLOGICAL OR SCIENTIFIC INSTALLATIONS THAT DO NOT
REQUIRE THE STATIONING OF OPERATING MILITARY FORCES.
END FYI.

3. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR AMBASSADOR
TODMAN:

-- WE WERE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS
READY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON OUR MILITARY FACILITIES.

-- WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET WITH YOU AT ANY TIME TO
CONTINUE THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AND BELIEVE THE TIME
SCHEDULE YOU SUGGESTED TO AMBASSADOR SCHWARTZ IS A
REALISTIC ONE.

-- AS PRESIDENT CARTER SAID IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH
PRIME MINISTER PINDLING, RENTAL PAYMENTS FOR FACILITIES
LIKE THOSE IN THE BAHAMAS ARE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO
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CONGRESS THAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TIED TO MILITARY
FACILITIES AGREEMENTS.

-- WE ARE PREPARED TO PAY AN ANNUAL RENTAL FOR OUR
FACILITIES ALONG THE LINES OF THE OFFER SUBMITTED TO
YOUR GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 1975. VANCE

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